

Request for IWF Funding

Request Rothe Low Support Building—chairs and computers

Facility Montana State Prison

Sponsor Associate Warden Leonard Mihelich

Date March 8, 2011

Request Description Request for 20 chairs for each of the 2 new classrooms in the Rothe Low Support Building and 35 chairs for the Rothe Low Support library. That is a total of 75 chairs at \$78.00 each, for a total of \$5,850.

Also, requesting \$1,206 for a legal computer desk for the Lexis Nexis computers in the Rothe Low Support library.

Total request is \$5,850 and \$1,206, for a total of \$7,056.

Amt. Requested \$7,056.00

Annual \$

Monthly \$

One Time \$7,056.00 **Total** \$7,056.00

Approved X

Denied

Inmate Representatives

[Signature] *[Signature]*

Date 3-15-11

Approved X

Denied

Warden or designee*

[Signature]

Date 3-15-11

Accounting Office

Date

*Staff will forward all IWF requests to the Warden or designee.



April 26, 2011

MEMO

TO: Prison Issues Board
FROM: Sally K. Hilander, Director's Office
RE: Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) request
PURPOSE: Reprint *Family Members Behind Bars* manual

On behalf of the Montana Alliance for Families Touched by Incarceration (MAFTI), I respectfully request \$3,000 in inmate welfare funding for a limited revision and second printing of our popular manual, *Family Members Behind Bars: Difficult Questions Children Ask...and Answers That Might Help*. This expenditure would directly benefit families of offenders under DOC supervision, regardless of their placement.

Since MCE completed the first printing of 2,200 copies in August 2009 at \$2.73 per copy, demand has remained high. The manual helps parents, grandparents, foster families, day care staff, teachers, and other caregivers explain the complex criminal justice system to young children when moms, dads or other family members are arrested, sent to jail and then to court and on to prison or a prison alternative.

MAFTI is committed to reprinting *Family Members Behind Bars* at MCE because doing so makes a nice statement about offender habilitation. Wes Harr at MCE estimates the price would be about the same for a second printing, depending on availability of cover stock and paper costs. I had not received a firm bid by closing time Monday.

I believe \$3,000 would be adequate to print 1,000 copies, perhaps a few more.

A downloadable PDF version of *Family Members Behind Bars* is available on the internet, including the DOC and MAFTI websites. However, hard copies are essential for inmate families, who tend to be more financially disadvantaged than the overall population and have less internet access. Copies are judiciously given out through Head Start, CASA, welfare agencies, schools, probation and parole offices, individual MAFTI members, the Family Tree in Billings, and the Parenting Place in Missoula. We ask everyone who receives a copy to pass it on to others or return it to MAFTI for redistribution.

Prior to a second printing of *Family Members Behind Bars*, MAFTI will update the resources section and make modest changes in the content. If funding allows, we will add a section addressing the shame and isolation that families often face in their communities when a member is in jail, prison, prerelease or other correctional facility.

The manual is MAFTI's most visible effort, but we do more. We meet monthly via conference call to discuss issues related to incarceration, maintain a website at www.mafti.org and respond to phone calls from inmate family members seeking referrals to help agencies, answers to questions about their incarcerated family member, and other information. The Parenting Place in Missoula provides a phone line and computer at no cost to MAFTI.

MAFTI supports the national Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents, which states that children with parents in prison are entitled to safety, security, support, information, and both physical and emotional contact with their parents (if such contact is safe and appropriate).

MAFTI BACKGROUND

About 20 Montanans who shared the desire to help these at-risk children met for the first time in December 2006 after we obtained a Family & Corrections Network (FCN) grant for technical assistance in support of the national Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated parents. Eventually we voted on the MAFTI name. We received a \$1,000 inmate welfare fund appropriation and \$1,500 from the other partners to obtain a VISTA volunteer to coordinate the *Family Members Behind Bars* project.

Project partners and supporters are Head Start, Montana Child Protective Services, Department of Corrections, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Missoula Prerelease Center, Probation and Parole, Billings Family Tree, Montana Children's Trust Fund, The Parenting Place in Missoula, Montana Native Women's Coalitions, Montana Youth Homes, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. and inmate families and friends

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

1. To be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest;
 2. To be heard when decisions are made about me;
 3. To be considered when decisions are made about my parent;
 4. To be well-cared for in my parent's absence;
 5. To speak with, see, and touch my parent;
 6. To support as I face my parent's incarceration;
 7. To not be judged, blamed or labeled because my parent is incarcerated;
 8. To have a lifelong relationship with my parent.
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